REMARKS

Claims 1, 5 through 7, 12, 17, 20, 21, and 23 through 27 remain pending in the application, with Claims 1, 12, and 17 being independent. Claims 3, 22, 28, and 29 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1, 12, 17, 21, and 27 have been amended to even more succinctly define the invention and/or to improve its form. Support for the amendments can be found throughout the originally-filed disclosure. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been presented.

Initially, Applicant's representative wishes to thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended during the telephonic interview of August 31, 2010. During the interview, differences between the citations of record and the pending claims were discussed. The details of the arguments presented are incorporated into the comments below.

Claims 1, 12, 20, and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Alsop (U.S. Patent No. 6,795,829 B2) in view of Baker (U.S. Patent No. 7,127,433 B2). Claims 5, 7, 21, 23, 25, and 27 through 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Alsop and Baker in view of Furukawa (U.S. Patent No. 6,029,238). Claims 3 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Alsop and Baker in view of Furukawa and Kajita et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,069,706). Claims 6 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Alsop and Baker in view of Nakata et al. (U.S. Patent No. 7,227,659 B2). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

The present invention as recited in Claim 1 relates to an information processing apparatus for managing an image processing apparatus having a plurality of operation modes including a first operation mode which involves a print output operation, a second operation mode which does not involve a print output operation, and a power control mode which does not involve

processing related to an image, the information processing apparatus comprising, *inter alia*, a specifying unit that specifies user identification information which identifies at least one of a user that uses the image processing apparatus and a department to which the user belongs, a calculation unit that calculates (i) a power consumption amount of the image processing apparatus for the first operation mode by multiplying the power consumption amount per page stored by the memory unit and the page outputting number, (ii) a power consumption amount of the image processing apparatus for the second operation mode by multiplying the power consumption amount per unit time stored by the memory unit and the operation time, and (iii) a power consumption amount of the image processing apparatus for the power control mode, and a preparation unit that prepares statistical information concerning (i) the power consumption amount of the image processing apparatus for the first operation mode calculated by the calculation unit, (ii) the power consumption amount of the image processing apparatus for the second operation mode calculated by the calculation unit, and (iii) the power consumption amount of the image processing apparatus for the power control mode calculated by the calculation unit.

In the present invention as recited in Claim 1, the calculation unit calculates a power consumption amount of the image processing apparatus for the specified user identification information specified by the specifying unit, and the preparation unit prepares statistical information concerning the power consumption amount of the image processing apparatus for the specified user identification information, and does not associate the power consumption amount of the image processing apparatus for the power control mode with the specified user identification information.

Baker discloses the calculating of a power consumption amount of an image processing apparatus by multiplying a power consumption amount per page stored by a memory unit and a page outputting number counted by a counting unit.

Alsop discloses the calculating of a power consumption amount of an image processing apparatus by multiplying a power consumption amount per unit time stored by a memory unit and an operation time timed by a timing unit. Further, Alsop discloses a power control mode that consumes different levels of power than other modes of the image processing apparatus.

Furukawa discloses a device status table that includes user information, dealer information, and consumptive power information. The data in the device status table of Furukawa is used for troubleshooting an imaging device. However, Furukawa does not disclose or suggest a department to which the user belongs. Rather, Applicant submits that the dealer information in the device status table of Furukawa is information disclosing the dealer of the imaging device, not the department of the user.

Kajita discloses managing of device information and user/client information. Kajita further discloses the releasing of a user when a standby state continues for a predetermined period of time.

Applicant respectfully submits that, Alsop, Baker, Furukawa, Kajita et al., and Nakata et al., whether taken individually or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest a calculation unit that calculates, *inter alia*, a power consumption amount of the image processing apparatus for the power control mode, a preparation unit that prepares statistical information concerning (i) the power consumption amount of the image processing apparatus for the first operation mode calculated by the calculation unit, (ii) the power consumption amount of the image processing apparatus for the second operation mode calculated by the calculation unit, and (iii) the power

consumption amount of the image processing apparatus for the power control mode calculated by the calculation unit, wherein the calculation unit calculates a power consumption amount of the image processing apparatus for the specified user identification information specified by the specifying unit, and wherein the preparation unit prepares statistical information concerning the power consumption amount of the image processing apparatus for the specified user identification information, and does not associate the power consumption amount of the image processing apparatus for the power control mode with the specified user identification information, as recited in Claim 1.

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that none of Alsop, Baker, Furukawa, Kajita et al., and Nakata et al., whether taken individually or in combination, can be understood to disclose or suggest all of the features of the information processing apparatus recited in independent Claim 1 of the present application. Independent Claims 12 and 17 recite similar features to independent Claim 1, and are believed patentable for reasons similar to independent Claim 1.

For the reasons discussed above, the claimed invention is believed to be patentable over the cited art.

Dependent Claims

Claims 5 through 7, 20, 21, and 23 through 27 are either directly or indirectly dependent from one of independent Claims 1 or 12 and are allowable by virtue of their dependency and in their own right for further defining the invention. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the pending claims are allowable over the art of record, and that the application is in condition for allowance.

Favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the application are earnestly solicited.

It is believed that no fee is required for this Amendment. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee which may be deemed necessary in connection with this paper to Deposit Account No. 06-1205.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

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